

Paul Wolff

EXHIBIT A (page 1)

Date: Wed, 19 May 1999 16:38:34 +0100
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Subject: Brazil

Paul,

Herewith some possible new claims from our chief technologist, Andrew Ryan.
Please feel free to contact him directly to discuss.

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Best regards
Paul Barrett

application/msword: new patent claims.doc : actual size 21k : encoded size 28k

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PASSEFACES: the unforgettable alternative to passwords and PINs

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EXHIBIT A
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Some possible new claims...

1. A method of controlling access to Internet web sites and web services where the user is presented with a number of complex images and is asked to identify the key complex images from amongst the false complex images. Minimum bandwidth objectives are realised by removing the need to transmit the image data from server to client each time the site or service requires verification of the user's identity. The image data can be cached by the client with no security implications as the stores of key complex images and false complex images will not be discernible to any part other than the genuine user. Communication from server to client of which images to display to the user and communication from client to server of which images the user has identified will take the form of image reference numbers where each image reference number identifies a unique complex image.
2. A method according to the above claim of increasing the usability and security of web sites and web services that currently require the user to enter a password or PIN in order to gain access. This is achieved by means of client software that converts a user's input response when they are asked to identify a number of key complex images from a display containing a number of complex images (including key complex images and false complex images) into a sequence of numbers that can be used as the user's password or PIN to gain access to the controlled site or service.
3. A method of preventing confusion between new sets of key complex images and previous sets by replacement of the entire set of complex images with a different set of complex images (including new key complex images and new false complex images).
4. A method of avoiding the misuse of access control information which currently exists when users are allowed to use the same passwords or PINs at a number of different Internet sites or services. Each site or service may use an entirely different set of complex images from which each user selects (or has selected for them) a number of key complex images to be used as described in the above claims. This method makes it impossible for a user to:
 - choose the same key complex images at each site;
 - choose a key complex image at one site which is used as false complex images at another site;

Does the client
pc? So server
controls by
pc. ordering
the display?

This method relies entirely on the user's ability to recognise complex images and does not require the users to associate particular complex images with particular sites or services.

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